

Arlington Council on Aging

Meeting Minutes, February 18, 2021

Present: Michael Quinn, Nancy Cox, Anne Brown, Rick Fentin, Kristine Shah, and Marge Vanderhill, Mary Hung, Jill Greenlee, and Pat Baillieul.
Associates: Mara Klein Collins, Paul Raia, and Karen Nichols.
Malcolm Hamilton: ASA rep.

Public meetings are conducted remotely due to the COVID pandemic. This meeting was recorded.

1. Call to order: The regular meeting of the Council on Aging Board was called to order by Michael Quinn via Zoom at 6:02PM on February 18, 2021.
2. Welcome to new board members: Sheila Connerney and Laura Liscio
3. Minutes of January 21, 2021, were approved. Jill so moved and Pat seconded.
4. Executive Director's Report: Kristine Shah

I. Updates on Programs/Services

- i. As of February 11, 208 75+ year olds have received their first dose of COVID-19 Vaccine at our town run clinic. COA Staff have been working additional hours to reach out and schedule appointments for these clinics over the phone. We are working in conjunction with our 2 social workers and using an online Google form that we fill out for interested residents who call us. As of February 11, about 400 names remain on our list of interested 75+ year old Arlington residents. As of February 11, the Health Department has been receiving an allotment of 100 vaccines per week for Arlington residents and we are hoping that this increases as the vaccine roll out progresses. The COA has been handling 200+ phone calls per day from residents regarding COVID-19 vaccine. Very few 75+ year olds who are calling are able to access and maneuver the Mass Vaccination sites (Fenway, Gillette, etc.) but some are able to secure appointments through their primary care physicians. Clinics will also be run at each Senior Housing building in Arlington once Phase 2, Group 2 is announced. Seventy homebound residents should also receive vaccine doses from the state.
- ii. 40 Chrome books and 8 hot spots have been distributed to older adults in town as a part of our Technology Lending Library program. We have applied for an additional \$5,000 grant from Mount Auburn Hospital to fund an additional 20 hot

spots for the remaining 20 Chrome books that we have left to distribute.

- iii. Virtual programs continue to be well attended and are expanding. An 8 week “Brain and Balance” class has over 50 registered attendees, Muscle Strengthening class has doubled in size to almost 60 attendees and we have upcoming virtual talks scheduled in March with District Attorney Marian Ryan, An Irish Step Dancing Show for St. Patrick’s Day, and a monthly Heart Health/Vaccine talk with a Mount Auburn physician.
- iv. We held our Valentine Grab & Go Event at Brightview on February 11. 25 older adults drove through a festive driveway to pick up a catered lunch and valentine made by Thompson School students.
- v. Our Snow Removal program has been active this winter and so far over 60 Arlington students have participated.
- vi. We received 19 applications for our annual Elderly and Disabled Tax Relief program this year. The committee will be meeting in late March to decide awards. Our Senior Property Tax Work off program is full with 20 participants. The Harry Barber rental assistance program is also full with 5 participants.
- vii. Our Dementia Friendly Sub Committee, Paul Raia, Nancy Cox, Karen Nichols, and Michael Quinn, met with MCOA staff Patty Sullivan and Susan McNulty in late January to discuss steps in certifying Arlington as a Dementia Friendly town. Our next step is for the sub-committee along with any other board members or COA staff interested to attend a Dementia Friends Training, March 19. After that training we will add to our sub-committee to include representatives from other areas of Arlington including Library, DPW, Town Hall departments, transportation, etc. We can then write a combined Age Friendly/Dementia Friendly action plan which will be due in June.
- viii. I will be reaching out to our Membership Sub-Committee to schedule a board orientation for Sheila and Laura.

b. Financial Updates

- i. Grant Application Updates
 - 1. \$20,000 from MAPC for Taxi/Livery transportation -
awaiting answer

2. \$11,800 from Lahey/BIDMC Health for Transportation-
received
3. \$5,000 from Mount Auburn for Hot Spot Monthly Fees-
received
4. \$4,000 from Mass Service Alliance for volunteer
support. *awaiting answer*
5. CDBG FY22 grant applications: Transportation Program
(\$31,540), Volunteer Coordinator Position (\$52,922)
and Adult Day Health scholarships (\$6,000). – *awaiting
answers*
6. \$5,000 from I'm Still Here Foundation for Dementia
Friendly Virtual Exercise Classes- *awaiting answer*

ii. Capital Campaign

1. We are moving forward with a spring mailing to update
Arlington Residents on the construction progress at the
center and invite them to participate again by
supporting the Capital Campaign (\$151,000 raised to
date).
2. The renovation is expected to be finished in June 2021.

5. Report of the Chair:

A. Michael will reach out to Joe Curro for a replacement to serve as a liaison
from the BOS to the COA board.

B. Michael recommended the Dementia Friendly training on March 19 to all
board members.

6. Minuteman Senior Services: Marge.

Summary of Executive Boarding meeting, February 3, 2021:

A. The FY22 state budget was released on January 27. There is a decrease in
funding for homecare and protective services.

B. Minuteman staff and volunteers were included in Phase 1 of vaccine
distribution. There has been high call volume to secure appointments for the
vaccine. The Information and Referral team will help pilot the state hotline.

C. A virtual Fun Walk/Run fundraiser event is scheduled for May 1-9.
Registration fee is \$35 for adults and \$15 for children.

D. Every four years the Area Agency on Aging must meet state and federal
requirements by developing an Area Plan which includes a Needs Assessment.
The Needs Assessment survey identified these main areas of concern: economic
security, housing, transportation, and social isolation. The Area Plan must be
submitted to EOEA by September 2021. The Plan establishes funding priorities
and goals.

Note: AAAs is a Federal system funded through the Older Americans Act passed in 1965. Each state has AAAs. ASAPs or Aging Services Access Points is a system unique to MA. (State funding is significantly higher than federal). MSS is both a AAA and an ASAP under the umbrella of the EOE, Executive Office of Elder Affairs.

7. ASA: Malcolm mentioned accommodations should be made for virtual programming after construction is completed on the Senior Center.

8. Old Business: April 1st is the deadline for Tax Deferral applications.

9. New Business: Mt. Auburn is conducting a needs assessment of Arlington seniors. These include loneliness, computer restrictions, helping those with dementia, and medical practices contacting COAs to highlight patients in need.

10. The meeting was adjourned at 6:58pm. Pat so moved and Rick seconded.